



An Amtrak passenger train was halted Wednesday by this mudslide near Soldier Summit (Aircraft courtesy of Spanish Fork Flying Service.)

Meb Anderson Photos

Slide Stops Amtrak Train Above Thistle

By PAT CHRISTIAN
Herald Staff Writer

SPANISH FORK CANYON — A rumbling mudslide above Spanish Fork Canyon pushed and twisted tracks 15 feet into the air Wednesday night and blocked an important transcontinental Denver & Rio Grande Western rail route — the same route halted for several months last year by the giant Thistle slide.

Crews were hustled to the site of three mudslides in the Utah County area located about four miles west of Soldier Summit.

They worked through the night and were still working feverishly this morning in hopes of opening the critical east-west rail artery by tonight.

Several transcontinental freight trains have been halted. Travelers on Amtrak's west-bound Zephyr were transferred to buses at Helper in Carbon County Wednesday night and taken 123 miles to Salt Lake City to board other Amtrak trains to Los Angeles, Oakland and Portland, said Larry Parsons, a Denver & Rio Grande spokesman.

Parsons said freight and passenger trains will have to be rerouted across Amtrak's former southern Wyoming line until the rail line is reopened.

Local pilot Allan Woodhouse, of Spanish Fork Flying Service,

flew over the devastated rail route this morning and noticed three slides in the Gilluly area where trains make a large "S" turn as they climb over Soldier Summit. The Gilluly area is about four miles west of Soldier Summit.

A passenger with the Spanish Fork pilot reported that the largest slide appears to be about 200-yards wide and 60-feet deep at the center.

Two other slides had stopped short of crossing the two parallel rails lines. Crews were spotted working on these lesser slides trying to prevent mud flows from cutting the tracks.

Several bulldozers and other heavy equipment were spotted working to dig out the buried rails from the heavy mud. Crews appeared to be installing a drainage pipe system above and around the slide area in an attempt to drain the mountain-side of heavy moisture that has led to the slides.

Slides developed as daytime temperatures in the 60s granted what promised to be a short-lived respite from a surging snowmelt. Temperatures rising into the 80s by Monday are expected to again send melting snow flooding into the valleys.

The tracks were blocked 15 miles west of where a massive mudslide last year dammed Spanish Fork Canyon, creating a

The Daily Herald



Israeli Troops Kill Palestinian Woman

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — An Israeli army patrol shot and killed a Palestinian woman at a refugee camp in south Lebanon today, then fired on a crowd of women and children protesters, wounding two, a witness reported.

The Palestinian woman was killed and two other people were wounded in Ain Hilweh, the same refugee camp outside the city of Sidon which the Israelis first raided Wednesday.

The Israeli army said no one was killed in the pre-dawn Wednesday sweep, but a Sunni Moslem Beirut radio station reported two deaths. Two Syrian-backed factions of the Palestine Liberation Organization vowed to retaliate. The PLO groups said 30 people were killed in Wednesday's raid.

It was the biggest raid on a refugee camp in Lebanon since the September, 1982, massacre of hundreds of refugees in the Sabra and Chatila camps by Israeli-backed Christian militia.

A witness at Ain Hilweh, who



People from neighboring villages of Ain El Helwe refugee camp closed the streets with burning tires to protest the Israeli operation here in which one woman was killed and 40 injured.

declined to be identified, said the Palestinian woman was killed today by Israeli fire. Angered by the incident, 800 Palestinian women and children demonstrated in the camp, but only to be attacked and dispersed by heavy armed Israeli troops.

"The Israelis opened fire at the demonstrators and wounded two of them. The Israelis are now surrounding the camp with tanks and troop carriers," said the witness.

Speaking by telephone from the coastal town of Sidon, located 24 miles south of Beirut, the witness said the Israelis were apparently on a "reconnaissance by fire" mission when their gunfire struck a woman in the head.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a joint statement Wednesday they would retaliate "for the new massacre of civilians" in the Ain Hilweh refugee camp.

Persian Gulf Nations Discuss Oil Tanker Attacks

BEIRUT, Lebanon (UPI) — Pro-Western Persian Gulf nations met in Saudi Arabia today for urgent talks on escalated attacks on oil tankers which Kuwait predicted will give superpowers a "pretext" to intervene in the region.

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The warning from Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Sabah coincided with a

report in The New York Times today that the United States last month offered fighter squadrons to help protect Arab oil shipments threatened by stepped-up hostilities in the Iran-Iraq war.

The Times, quoting unnamed Reagan administration officials, said no nation took advantage of the offer when it was made. But according to the report, the officials said Washington remained

willing to discuss sending squadrons to the region if invited to do so.

In Brussels, where he attended a NATO meeting, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger was asked about reports "to the effect the United States has in recent weeks or months offered protection to tankers from friendly countries specifically air cover but so far at least these offers

had not been accepted."

Weinberger replied, "There are a number of published reports, and unfortunately not all of them are true, and that one, which I have not seen would be in that latter category if indeed it does indicate the things you have just mentioned."

In the latest attack, a U.S.-built Iranian warplane fired at least five missiles Wednesday at a

Saudi Arabian oil tanker off the Saudi coast, causing a fire and extensive damage, the ship's captain and U.S. officials said.

"Iranian attacks against oil tankers in the Gulf will give the superpowers the pretext they need to intervene in the region," Al Sabah said before departing for the meeting site at Riyadh. Kuwait requested today's meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

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